

Ebola Virus Disease

What is Ebola?

- Ebola is a virus that causes a fever and other non-specific symptoms (see below). If gone untreated the disease can become severe and lead to death.
- Symptoms can appear 2 to 21 days after the time of infection.
- Infected people may experience:
 - Fever
 - Headache
 - Muscle and joint pains
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea and vomiting
 - Skin rash
 - Inflamed throat
 - Stomach pain
 - Unexplained bleeding and bruising

What should hotels look for?

Please be mindful if any of your guests who may have traveled to, or are visiting from affected countries in West Africa. Any of these guests who show signs of the symptoms listed above should be immediately referred to the Office of Public Health.

How can I protect myself?

The CDC states that the following are the best ways to prevent oneself from getting sick from infectious diseases, including Ebola:

- DO wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Do NOT touch the blood or body fluids (like urine, feces, saliva, vomit, sweat, and semen) of people who are sick
- Do NOT handle items that may have come in contact with a sick person's blood or body fluids, like clothes, bedding, needles, or medical equipment
- Do NOT touch the body of someone who has died

Ebola Outbreak 2014

The Ebola outbreak in western Africa is the largest in history and a declared international health emergency. The outbreak has affected thousands in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, with a few cases in Nigeria and Senegal. About half of the people who have gotten Ebola in this outbreak have died. On September 30, 2014, a Liberian traveler visiting Texas became the first person to be diagnosed with Ebola in the United States.

How is Ebola transmitted?

The disease is contagious and is spread through direct contact with:

- Blood and bodily fluids (urine, feces, saliva, vomit, sweat and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola
- Objects (like needles) that have been contaminated with blood or bodily fluids of a person sick with Ebola
- Ebola is NOT spread by air, water or food.

How do I report Ebola?

- If someone meets the following criteria:
 - ⇒ Has a fever over 38°C or 101.5°F and other symptoms

AND

 - ⇒ Has traveled to affected countries in West Africa within the past 21 days or
 - ⇒ Had possible contact with a symptomatic Ebola patient

Please call the Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health at 504-568-8313 or after hours at 1-800-256-2748.